

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Since this flag's purpose would be to limit copies, I have a strong suspicion it wouldn't allow me to "space shift" my copies from my PC to my entertainment center or the reverse. In essence, whatever limits my rights to move a copy between my various different pieces of already purchased equipment, or any equipment I am likely to purchase in the future is definatly against my wishes.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

For this to be acceptable, the following conditions would have to be met:

1. copying would be no more difficult than it is today.
2. Copying must be allowed on PC systems such as Linux.
3. There can be no restrictions on the type of media to which these coppies can be made.
4. There can be no software restrictions on what program can manipulate these coppies.

Personally, having studdied the issues, and being the current owner of a hardware based Rocket E-Book, I would say that these restrictions represent an impossible hurdle for the technology to attain. The Rocket E- Bool is a nice device, however the demands of its copypright protection software place such limits on its usefullness, that the device simply hasn't sold that well.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Well, Looking at the new CD copy protection scheme that has PC users up in arms is a good example for how I feel this issue will turn out should it be implemented, that is to say...badly.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Limitations on how consumers are allowed to view, copy or store their media have always infringed on new product development. A few examples that come to mind are the audio tape recorders which the recording industry objected to, the DLT which the recording industry managed to kill, and the product called Rio from Diamond systems which the recording industry unsuccessfully sued.

I guess what I am getting at is any time you allow the codification of such restrictions into both the media stream and the hardware designed to view it, you necessarily funnel all future developments through the outlets that controll the keys to this code.